

84 Mesa Hand Thinning

Fuels Treatment Information Packet



This packet is intended to present information necessary to work on/complete specific fuels treatments in the absence of the project lead, fuels specialist, or other Northwest Colorado Fire Management Unit personnel. Information contained in this packet includes specifications, NEPA Language, important numbers, a medical plan, and maps.

Directions to Project

From Meeker: Head south on HWY 13 approximately 3 miles & turn right on HWY 64. Head west on HWY 64 approximately 22 miles to Rio Blanco County Rd 5 (Piceance Creek Rd). Turn left & head south approximately 15.5 miles to Rio Blanco County Rd 24. Turn right & proceed west approximately 9 miles. Turn right on Rio Blanco County Road 24X, proceed approximately 2.5 miles, then the treatment site will be on the right side of the road.

Specifications

The following criteria need to be met in order for this project to be NEPA compliant. If you have any questions regarding these criteria, please contact the project lead, the White River Fuels management specialist, or the Fuels Program Lead out of Craig.

1. Power wash all vehicles and equipment involved in fuels management activities prior to entering the area to minimize the introduction of undesirable and/or invasive plant species.
2. The treated areas would be monitored by the White River Field Office (WRFO) for noxious/invasive weed infestations for a minimum of three years post treatment. Any infestations identified will be suppressed/eradicated by the BLM.
3. The BLM or agent acting on behalf of the BLM would complete all fueling of equipment outside of any drainage.
4. Any spills of fuels, lubricants, et cetera will be reported to the WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator within 24 hours.
5. Vehicle use off existing roads and trails will not occur.
6. Treatments will not occur when surface soils are saturated to 3 inches or when vehicles or equipment create ruts in soils 3 inches or greater during normal operations.
7. All visible pinyon and juniper trees 10" DBH or less within the treatment polygons will be removed by mechanical means (chainsaws) while leaving brush species untreated. Stump height of treated trees will be less than 4 inches. Very small trees or those with very low branches will need to be cut to ground level in order to remove all branches. Trees less than 2 ft tall may be removed by hand tools if desired.
8. Avoid white shale slopes that could potentially be suitable or occupied habitat for the Dudley Bluffs twinpod and bladderpod.
9. The BLM project lead is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
10. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the Authorized Officer (AO). The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural

damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

11. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
12. Prior to any treatment activity, the BLM project lead will coordinate with existing right-of-way holders, livestock grazing permittees, operators, and mineral lessees to inform them of planned treatments and estimated treatment timeframes.
13. Treatments will take place outside of the migratory bird nesting season (May 15 – July 15). Treatments will be permitted from July 16 – May 14.
14. To minimize the disturbance to sage-grouse broods and other migratory birds, the Proposed Action would occur mid-July through early-winter.
15. Project areas would be monitored by the BLM prior to any treatment and for three to five years after the project is completed. Monitoring would be to: (1) determine if project objectives were met, (2) establish the need for additional treatments, and (3) document monitoring results for future projects. Methods used to monitor the treated area may include field observation, photographic plots, cover transects utilizing point-intercept and density plot methods.
16. The BLM would not conduct vegetation treatments in years where the Palmer Drought Severity Index for the area is severe or extreme.

NEPA Language

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to mechanically (with chainsaws) treat approximately 280 acres adjacent to Rio Blanco County Road 24X. This treatment has the objective of enhancing vegetation communities in support of wintering mule deer, as well as reducing hazardous fuels near major county roads.

The proposed treatment involves using chainsaws to cut invading Pinyon and Juniper trees from sagebrush parks. This treatment would remove trees that have encroached upon the sagebrush ecosystems in order to enhance habitat for wildlife and reduce hazardous fuel loading and the risks of wildland fire escaping public lands and impacting the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

This treatment would occur in a Phase I stand and target 100 percent removal of encroaching pinyon and juniper 10” DBH and less, both dead and alive from the treatment area. No sagebrush will be targeted. Trees would be removed using chainsaws, utilizing the lop and scatter technique to ensure pieces of the trees (fuel) is scattered evenly over the project area. Stumps would be cut to a height of four inches or less.

List of Numbers

PROJECT PHONE NUMBERS:		
Fuels Program Lead (NWCFAMU)	Toni Toelle	Cell (970) 761-0124
Fuels Management Specialist (WRFO)	Landon Smith	Desk (970) 878-3818 Cell (970) 326-7653
South Zone FMO	Kyle Frary	Desk (970) 878 3862 Cell (970) 309-1054
Craig Dispatch	Craig Dispatch	(970) 826-5037

Communications Info

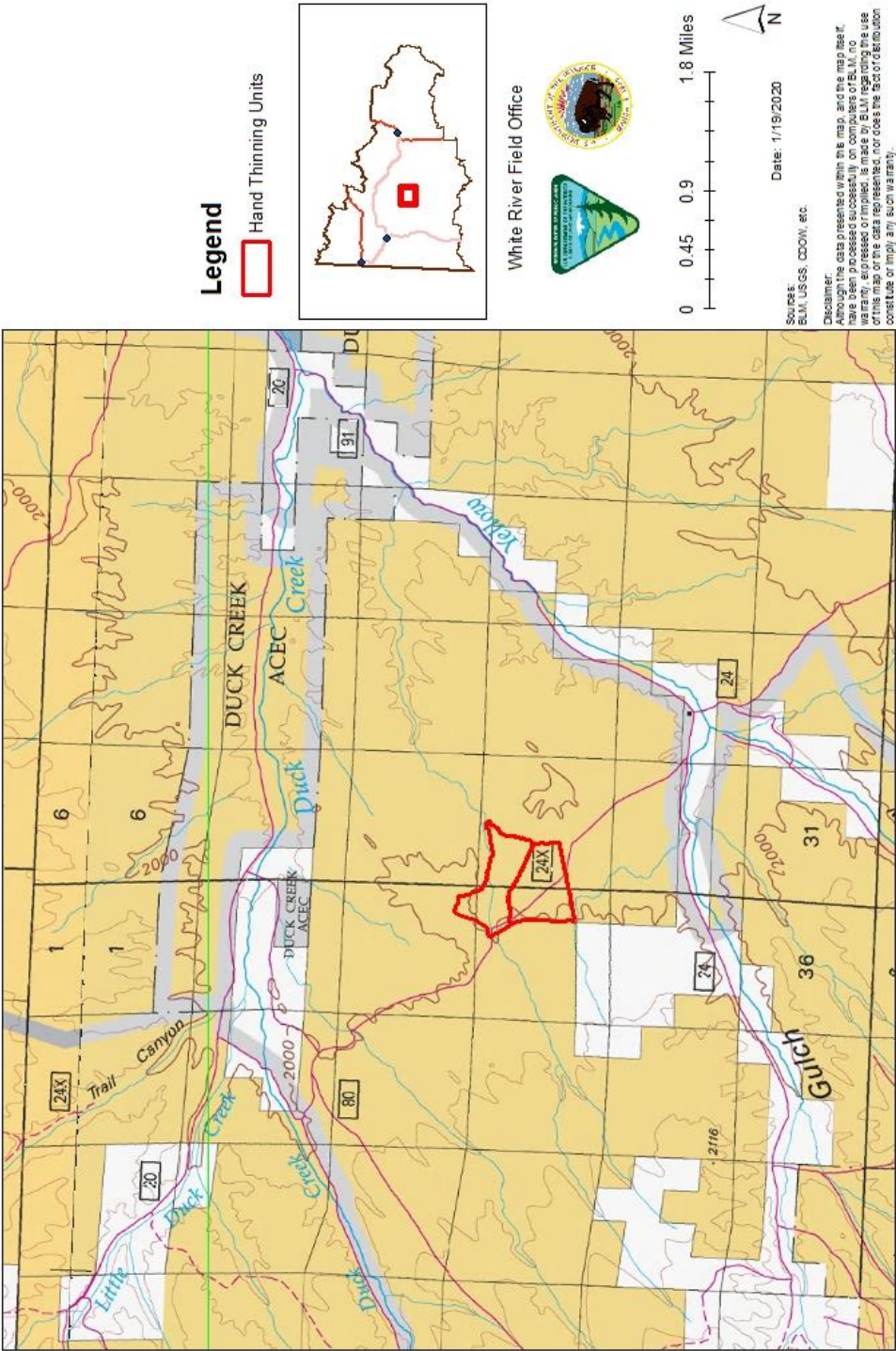
-Primary Repeater: Cathedral

-Secondary Repeater: Wilson

-Tac: Tac 7

Maps: See following pages

84 Mesa Hand Thinning (280 Acres)



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